20 SEIZED IN STATE AS RIGHT-WINGERS IN WEAPONS PLOT

Police Say 3 Private Camps Were Marked for Attack by Leaders in Queens

'TONS' OF ARMS FOUND

Conspiracy Laid to Bands of Minutemen—Evidence to Go Before Grand Jury

By MURRAY SCHUMACH

Twenty men and "tons" of weapons and ammunition were seized yesterday to break up what the police called a conspiracy by right-wing extremists in the metropolitan area to "devastate" three privately owned camps in New York State, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In a series of raids that began in Queens shortly before dawn and was still spreading across the state late in the day, the police seized arsenals that included mortars, bazookas, machine guns, semi-automatic rifles, homemade bombs, more than a million rounds of ammunition, machetes, crossbows and garroting nooses.

According to District Attorney Nat H. Hentel, of Queens, the prisoners and weapons belonged to bands of Minutemen, a right-wing group that believes a Communist uprising or invasion is imminent.

He said, with nodding agreement from Chief of Detectives Frederick M. Lussen, that three of the bands were about to begin attacks on the camps when the police closed in.

Camps Not Named

Mr. Hintel refused to identify the camps, but he did say that the Minutemen were dedicated to "destroying and demolishing Communist, left-wing and liberal installations."

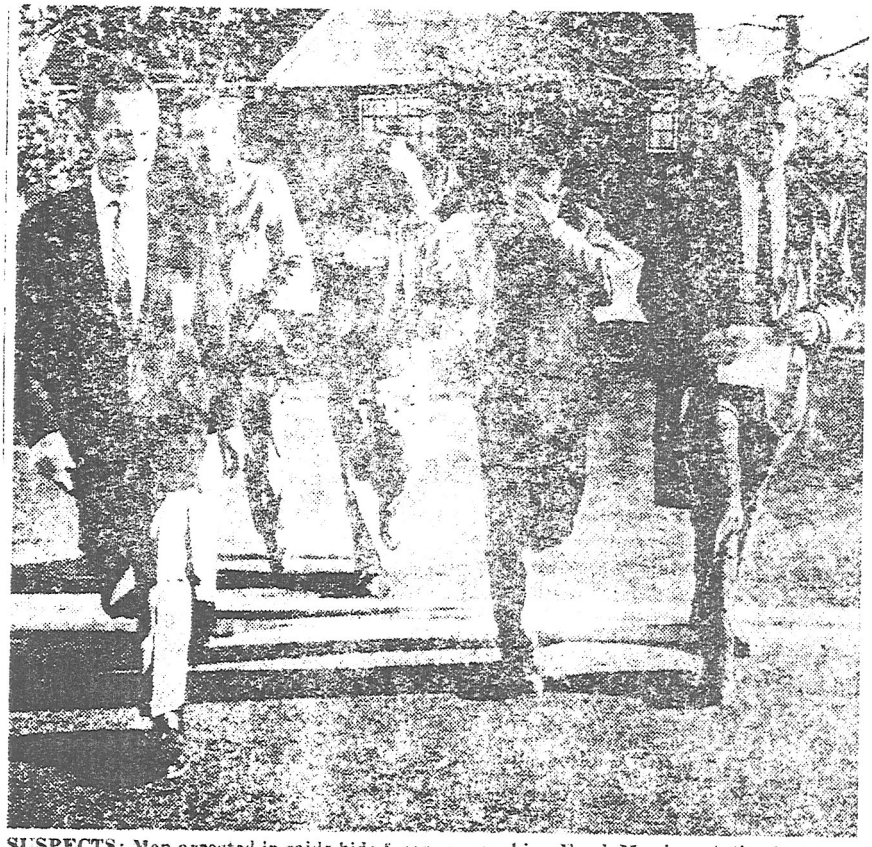
Under questioning he repeatedly refused to give details about the camps, on the grounds that the entire matter was subject to "continuing investigation" and had not yet gone before the grand jury. It was only after a reporter asked him if the targets were Boy Scout camps that he said they were privately owned.

"This is the biggest haul of weapons and death-dealing material seized in this area in the memory of veteran law-enforcement officers," Mr. Hentel said at a news conference in his office.

"We have effectively broken up the secret organization in this area and have removed literally tons of death-inflicting weapons, ending the possibility of great losa of life and property."

Mr. Hentel displayed on his desk some of the weapons reported taken in the raids—a bazooka, bazooka shell, mortar

Continued on Page 49, Column 1



SUSPECTS: Men arrested in raids hide faces approaching Fresh Meadow station in Queens

The New York Times

ARSENAL: Detectives inspect and tag weapons and ammunition uncovered in sweeps

NYTimes 31 Oct 66

shell and two semi-automatic rifles. Around him were detectives, police officials and bomb experts—part of the 110 men who worked on the case under the supervision of Chief Inspector Sanford D. Garelik and the immediate command of Chief of Detectives Lussen.

The arrest of the Minutemen yesterday was the climax of an investigation that began last January, when the police received "confidential information" that they passed along to Mr. Hentel.

When Mr. Hentel, who is running for election as District Attorney, was asked why the raids had occurred so closed to Election Day—which is a week from tomorrow—he explained that the police had learned the attacks on the three camps were to take place yesterday.

"Once we learned they were making their move," he said, "we had to make ours."

Weapons Fill a Truck

The weapon seizures grew as the raids went on. The police said that in arresting Jack Lynn Boyce, 40 years old, at his home, at Sunny Ridge Road, Katonah, N. Y., they found so many weapons that a truck was filled. The arsenal included 10 machine guns, "a number of" bazookas. The arrested man said he was a student at Danbury State College, Danbury, Conn.

Another prisoner, when booked as Frank Ferraro, turned to reporters and said: "We've got a statement for you—there was no police brutality. They were very polite." Then he added that his nickname was "Nathan Hale." On the stock of one of the semi-automatic rifles was stamped: "Liberty or Death."

A third prisoner, charged with conspiracy to commit arson, as well as violation of the Sullivan Law, was a New York City fireman. He was booked as William Kieswer, 29, of 135-12 130th Street, Ozone Park, Queens.

In Milford, Conn., Thomas Hart, Connecticut state chairman of the Patriotic party, which was founded by the Minutemen, refused to believe the police version of the raids. He called it "an apparent hoax" or mixup of organizations.

But Governor Rockefeller did not share this disbelief. When informed of the raids, he said: "These people are misguided in their patriotism."

During their long investigation, the police said, they learned these things:

¶The Minutemen had tried to infiltrate the reserve unit of the 11th Special Forces of the Army—the "Green Berets"—at Miller Field, S. I., to learn guerrilla tactics they could use against Communists.

¶Members of the group distributed racist literature in Roosevelt, L. I., and Laurelton, Queens, purporting to be from Negro extremists and urging Negroes "to kill white devils . . . have the white women for our pleasure."

¶Field maneuvers were held in Suffolk County and in the vicinity of Ellenville, N. Y., with homemade bombs.

¶The Minutemen made a careful study of the area around the headquarters of The Daily Worker, the Communist paper, including the traffic-signal system. The building, at 23 West 26th Street, was subsequently bombed with a smoke bomb similar to those found in yesterday's raids. Mr. Hentel said he was looking into the possibility that the Minutemen had been responsibly for the bombing.

Conflict Reported Averted

The District Attorney said the hate leaflets had been distributed from speeding cars at night and had nearly created a race conflict. He said any clash was averted because the police obtained the agreement of "local papers" to avoid publicizing the incident until it could be presented to the public in perspective. Mr. Hentel did not name the papers.

As the police were booking prisoners yesterday on charges ranging from possession of deadly weapons to unlawful assembly, inciting to riot and conspiracy to commit arson, Chief Garelik arrived at the Fresh Meadows station house to confer with police officials.

Today, according to Mr. Hentel, two assistant district attorneys—Robert Hill Schwartz and Robert P. Leighton—will go before the grand jury to seek the indictment of the prisoners. Since not all the prisoners were booked on the same charges, it was assumed there would be differences in the indictments sought.

An extraordinary precaution was taken after the prisoners were booked. Each was assigned to the jail of a different precinct, so that they would be unable to exchange information during the night.

One of the most important of yesterday's police raids was reported to have taken place between 5 and 6 A.M. at Goldy's Diner, at 130th Street and North Conduit Avenue South Ozone, Queens. There the raiders picked up six men who were having coffee. Mr Hentel said the suspects were among the Minutemen planning to use a hunting trip as a cover to destroy the camps.

In the car of one of these men, according to the prosecutor, the police, who had search warrants, found three pipe bombs, two grenades and "a number of rifles."

At about the same time the city police, sometimes accompanied by state troopers and policemen from Nassau and Suffolk Counties, began other raids. One of these, in Syracuse, led to the seizure of firearms and field equipment.

The police, according to Mr. Hentel, have obtained many search warrants and are looking for files and records as well as weapons.

The District Attorney said that the reason the investigation was centered in Queens was that the police had discovered that the "focut of leadership" in the plans by the Minutemen seemed to be there.

Investigation Continuing

The prosecutor refused to say how the prisoners had obtained the guns or whether they had admitted they were Minutemen. He said he could not discuss such matters because the investigation was continuing and had not yet gone before the grand jury.

The reserve Special Force outfit on Staten Island that the Minutemen were said to have tried to infiltrate is airborne and trained some 800 men last year. It is headed by Lieut. Col. Joseph McCrane of Rancocas, N. J.

The prisoners booked yesterday at Fresh Meadows and the charges, pending arraignment today, were reported as follows:

Andrew Zum, 24 years old, a cab driver of 2015 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn; conspiracy to commit arson, violation of the Sullivan Law, unlawful assembly.

Matthew Sarter, 29, heavy-equipment operator, 647 Sobro Avenue, Franklin Square, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson and unlawful assembly.

Edward J. Foley, 24, a Transit Authority conductor, 910 Dinsmore Avenue, Far Rockaway, Queens; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation.

Richard Azaro, 18, a clerk, 73-21 69th Avenue, Middle Village, Queens; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation, unlawful assembly.

Lebro Ferraro, 24, milkman, 104-33 108th Street, Ozone Park, Queens; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law, unlawful assembly.

Lawrence Conklin, 27, horsegroom, 150-06 14th Avenue, Whitestone, Queens; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation.

Salvatore Russo, 30, truckman, 3379 Fiddler Lane, Bethpage, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation, unlawful assembly.

John Deptuch, 30, port steward, 1101 Martinstein Avenue, Bayshore, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

Joseph Russo, 20, brother of Salvatore, truck driver, of 20 Henry Street, Bethpage, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson and Sullivan Law violation.

Frank Ferraro, 29, milkman, 150-27 115th Street, Ozone Park; conspiracy to commit arson and Sullivan Law violation.

John Knoetgen, 44, a mold maker, 20 Bailey Avenue, Bay Shore, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

Daniel P. Byrne, 24, mechanic, 35 Catherine Avenue, Franklin Square, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

Martin Skiffington, 28, mechanic, 60-12 67th Avenue, Flushing, Queens; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation.

William Garrett, 34, a landscape artist, 2118 Howell Street, Bellmore, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation.

Warren T. Baldwin, 31, plasterer, 672 Sylvan Avenue, Bayport, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

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* KIESWER and Boyce, in addition to above - total, 17.

Number given in first paragraph, 20.